Amendment to the Specification

Page 1, line 1, please replace the title with the following substituted title:

~~Sequences encoding a kin17 protein and uses thereof~~

ISOLATED POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING KIN17 PROTEINS

Page 10, between lines 24 and 25, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 10, lines 29-32, please replace the paragraph with the following:

Figures ~~2A and 2B~~ 2A-E illustrate the comparison of the nucleic acid (~~Figure 2B~~Figures 2 B-E; (SEQ ID NOS: 1 and 2)) and protein (Figure 2A; (SEQ ID NOS: 25 and 26)) sequences *HsKin17* and *MmKin17*. Nucleotides = 86% identity, amino acids = 92.4% identity.

Page 20, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 as follows:

The revelation is carried out using the TSA™ (Tyramide Signal Amplification) Direct kit (NEN kit Ref. NEL 731). After hybridization, the slides are successively washed 3 times for 10 min. in 2 X SSC, 1 X SSC and 0.5 X SSC buffer at room temperature, and then 3 times for 5 min. in 0.1 M Tris-HC1, pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.05% Tween-20 buffer (TNT). The cells are then incubated with a blocking buffer composed of 0.1 M Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl and 0.5% of blocking reagent for 30 min. After blocking, the immunodetection is carried out for 90 min. with a peroxidase-coupled anti-digoxigenin antibody (Boehringer Mannheim, Ref. 1207733). The antibody is used at a dilution of 1/100 in the blocking buffer of the hybridization kit (TSA™ Direct). The incubation is followed by 3 5-min. rinses in the TNT buffer, and then the peroxidase is detected by reacting the fluorescein-coupled tyramide

for 5 min. as described by the supplier (TSA™ Direct, NEN). After 3 5-min. washes in the TNT, the cells are stained with a solution of 10^{-3} µg/ml of 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) for 10 min. The slides are then rinsed in the TNT buffer, before being mounted using ~~Vectashield~~ VECTASHIELD®, which is a fluorescence-protecting mounting product (Vector Laboratories, Ref. H-1000). The fluorescein is observed at 525 nm and the DAPI at 425 nm using a Carl Zeiss Axiophote 2 microscope equipped for indirect immunofluorescence and with a cooled camera, as specified above.